

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UK, BP

SUBJECT: UK LETTER ON THE FUTURE OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

THE FOLLOWING LETTER ON THE FUTURE OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
FROM UK PERM REP IVOR RICHARD TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE HAS BEEN CIRCULATED IN UN DOCUMENT
A/AC.109/489, DATED 28 MAY 1975:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLE

QUESTION OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

I AM WRITING TO INFORM YOU THAT CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS ON THE FUTURE
OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS WERE HELD IN LONDON ON 19 AND 20 MAY 1975
BETWEEN MISS JOAN LESTER, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, AND A DELEGATION FROM THE
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SOLOMON ISLANDS LED BY THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. MAMALONI. THE FOLLOW-

ING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED ON 20 MAY, AT THE END OF THE TALKS:

"HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS DELEGATION AGREED THAT INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE INTRODUCED, IF POSSIBLE BY 1 NOVEMBER 1975, BUT AT ANY RATE NOT LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 1975, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT, INDEPENDENCE SHOULD FOLLOW WITHIN 12 TO 18 MONTHS. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE APPOINTED IN AUGUST 1975 TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROVISIONS OF AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION. THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY NOT LATER THAN APRIL 1976.

"AFTER THESE RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED AND CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WOULD CONVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON TO DRAW UP THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION AND FIX THE PRECISE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE.

"IT IS THE VIEW OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT THAT A GENERAL ELECTION AT WHICH THE ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE IS CONSIDERED SHOULD PRECEDE THE GRANT OF INDEPENDENCE."

THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE HAS ALREADY INFORMED SUB-COMMITTEE II OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE OUTCOME OF THE LONDON TALKS. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE WOULD WISH TO BE INFORMED, AND, IF YOU AGREED, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS LETTER COULD BE CIRCULATED ACCORDINGLY TO MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

IVOR RICHARD
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